

## The Lane Report - August 2007

### UofL Takes Lead in Bringing NewNet Node to State

We all owe some thanks to the University of Louisville Office of Information Technology for its role in gaining Kentucky a connection node on the new ultra high-speed Internet network being put in place across the country.

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

NewNet is the successor to Internet2, which started in the mid-1990s when research universities formed a coalition because they felt the commercial Internet did not meet their speed and capacity needs. UofL, the University of Kentucky, other colleges and K-12 schools in the state have been connected to the 10 Gbps (billion bits per second) backbone Internet2 for years. It enables researchers to collaborate with colleagues; high-definition, real-time video conferencing; virtual field trips to other cities and countries; and use of remote equipment.

The network in use today is being replaced with a 100 Gps backbone known as NewNet, but our state wasn't slated for one of the network's 26 switching nodes. Fortunately, UofL officials found out last year that a NewNet cable would come within 100 yards of existing cable in downtown Louisville and took the initiative.

Knowing that regional optical networks are a key criteria for creating node sites, Tom Sawyer, acting UofL vice president of information technology, urged University of Kentucky and the state Council on Postsecondary Education officials to fast track efforts to develop a Kentucky RON. Then he lobbied Internet2.

NewNet will help UofL and UK compete in research and recruit faculty, and Kentucky and its people to compete in the global information economy. There "probably will be a lot of economic development and other benefits we haven't started to see," said Mike Dyre, director of research and development for the Office of Information Technology. "It's bringing Kentucky into the 21st century."